

Board of Regents State of Iowa

11260 Aurora Avenue Urbandale, Iowa 50322-7905

Gregory S. Nichols
Executive Director

Telephone: (515) 281-3934 Fax: (515) 281-6420
Website: www.state.ia.us/educate/regents

Members

Owen J. Newlin, President, *Des Moines*
Neala R. Arnold, *Bettendorf*
David J. Fisher, *West Des Moines*
Clarkson L. Kelly, Jr. M.D., *Charles City*
David G. Neil, *La Porte City*
Deborah A. Turner, M.D., *Des Moines*
Amir I. Arbisser, M.D., *Davenport*
Mary Ellen Becker, Ph.D., *Oskaloosa*
Sue Erickson Nieland, *Sioux City*

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Program Elimination Commission

From: Gregory S. Nichols

Subject: Unified Authority Proposal

Date: December 6, 2002

We would like to take this opportunity to articulate our significant concerns regarding the inclusion of the Regent institutions in the Unified Authority proposal presented to the Program Elimination Commission.

We believe that a mandate to include the Regent institutions within such an authority would burden both the state and the Regent institutions with considerable excessive costs in an already challenging fiscal environment. Just the initial costs to implement the system contemplated in the proposal could total hundreds of millions of dollars, which would exceed the benefits implied in the proposal. Because of the volume and complexity of the Regent institutional systems, a central state system would have to add many new state employees and extensively upgrade computer systems to handle the increased workload. The costs of fully integrating a new state system with all of the other existing institutional systems would be prohibitive. A new state system would also include ongoing extraordinary costs and inefficiencies for both the state and the Regent campuses.

The Board of Regents takes its governance responsibility very seriously. Through the Regent governance process, the management and administrative processes of its institutions have been repeatedly reviewed and continually improved. The Regent institutions currently have leading edge, fully automated and integrated systems and best practices in place. Regent practices have served as models for other state agencies and other institutions. The feasibility of successfully implementing the proposal is questionable and puts at risk the effective governance and management structures of a highly effective and efficient enterprise whose missions are vastly different than other state governmental units. In addition, the proposal would infringe upon the statutory governance authority of the Board of Regents.

The Board understands and respects the challenges that the Commission faces. The attached white paper outlines specific issues with the proposal that we believe would be devastating for both the state and the Board of Regents.

I hope that this information is helpful. We would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions that you may have.

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Enclosure

INVESTING in the FUTURE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA Δ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Δ UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF Δ IOWA BRAILLE AND SIGHT SAVING SCHOOL

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